indicate any alarming levels of dissolved and dispersed petroleum hydrocarbons in the waters of the open coast. The concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons in the seafloor sediments is also low.

(c) The inshore waters of Mumbai are under considerable strain due to indiscriminate release of domestic waste water. Large volumes of waste water are presently released in Thane, Mahim, Versova creeks and also directly in the coastal waters. Creeks of Mahim and Versova present highly degraded marine environment, while the pollution is localised along the open shore and in Thane creek.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government:

(i) The Maharastra Pollution Control Board has asked the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai for complying with the requirements under the concerned conditins in respect of treatment and disposal of sewage effluents.

(ii) Schemes have been formulated for providing common effluent treatment facilities and disposal of sewage effluent deep into the sea.

(iii) Rules on Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), 1991 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been notified for regulating the developmental works within 500m from the coast line.

(iv) A regular water quality monitoring programme has been initiated to check the water quality.

Environmental Projects in Maharastra

219. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the ongoing and new environmental projects in Maharashtra and the progress achieved thereunder, projectwise, and provision of funds under the central sector schemes for the current financial year;

(b) the details of the progress achieved under these projects during the past five years, year-wise and project-wise and reasons for slow progress;

(c) the details of the projects proposed by the State Government and action taken thereon, projectwise; and

(d) the details of the projects proposed for World Bank assistance in Maharashtra and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (CAPT. **JAI** NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (d) The details of the environmental projects started in Maharashra with central and World Bank assistance during the last five years including current financial year alongwith their progress are given at Annexure. *[Sec Appendix 179, Annexure No. 6]* All the projects have been proceeding satisfactorily.

Substandard meals in trains

220. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that meals supplied to the passengers particularly in the sleeper class are substandard and always cold despite the fact that the charges of the meals are very high;

(b) whether Government are aware that the standard of meals supplied in III tier AC or IInd Class AC is better than that in the sleeper class though the charges are same;

(c) the names of the trains in which catering facilities have been entrusted to contractors and departmental catering; and

(d) the reasons for handing over the catering facilities to contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) A statement is attached. (see below).